recommendation of the Commission is to arrive at an optimal level of ratio between officers and staff with a view to rightsizing the Government.

Water Asia International Conference

*590. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Water Asia International Conference and Exhibition on Asian Water Industry was held on January 30,2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have cautioned that unless the Governments, the Industry and the people at large worked together, India could be facing a severe water scarcity in the near future;

(c) if so, the main subjects discussed in the Conference; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to implement the decisions taken in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Fourth Water Asia International Conference and Exhibition on Asian Water Industry was held from 30th January to 1st February, 2002 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Conference and Exhibition was organized by Interads Ltd. Conference & Exhibitions, New Delhi (a private sector agency). The conference *inter-alia* covered the themes on water resources management, industrial water, waste water treatment and regulatory aspects. The organizers of the conference have not come up with any recommendations.

Due to the spatial variability of rain in the country and also because of variation in population density, per capita average annual availability of water in different basins presently varies from 16,990 cubic metre in Minor River Basins Draining into Bangladesh & Myanmar and 13,636 cubic metre in Brahmaputra-Barak basin to 298 cubic metre in Sabarmati basin. Further, the temporal variability in the rainfall also creates temporary scarcity condition. With increase in population, the situation is likely to accentuate and to prevent any adverse impact, active involvement of all the sections of the society including the industry is called for. These facts, among others, were brought out in the Conference.